

Boushy, on the other hand, solves an entirely different problem. Boushy discloses a national customer recognition system and method particularly applicable to the gaming industry in which customers can be rewarded based on their activity at gaming establishments such as casinos. Data is collected about a customer's activity, and then the data can be reviewed so that employees of the gaming establishment can personalize customer services (see Abstract).

Claim 1 recites: A computer peripheral sales promoting system comprising:

a service status detecting means for detecting a service status of a computer peripheral;

a customer product information storing means for storing specification information of said computer peripheral and user information which specifies a user of said computer peripheral and also for consecutively updating and storing a service status detected by said service status detecting means are provided in a computer which serves as an upper-level system for said computer peripheral; and

a sales promoting terminal for making access to said customer product information storing means to thereby read out said specification information, said user information, and service status.

First, the Examiner states that the claimed service status detecting means is disclosed in Boushy at col. 11, lines 10-11 "wherein this reads over a card removal or status request, the customer account is updated 450." Applicants respectfully submit that the "status" discussed in this section of Boushy relates to the status of a user account, and not a computer peripheral. That is, for example, the number of points accumulated by the user (see col. 11, lines 1-5). In the Boushy method, a user account is updated when a card is removed, or the user has a status

request (see col. 11, lines 5-15). Thus, there is no disclosure or suggestion of determining the status of a computer peripheral - only the status of a user account which is an entirely different concept. Since this feature is included in independent claims 1, 2 and 14, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are allowable at least for this reason.

Next, the independent claims recite a feature of storing a status of the computer peripheral. The Examiner states that this feature is disclosed at col. 1, lines 21-24 of Boushy. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion of storing a status of a computer peripheral. The only disclosure of storage of data in Boushy is regarding a customer's activities at the casino, and not data regarding status of computer peripherals used by the customer. Therefore, the claims are allowable for this reason as well. For similar reasons, there is no disclosure of a sales promoting terminal that reads out specification information and service status as recited in claim 1, 2, and 14.

Dependent claims 9 and 10 recite a feature whereby the service status detecting means detects a spent disk capacity and a load status of the data storing apparatus. The Examiner states that this feature is disclosed in Boushy at col. 4, lines 64-65 which discloses that customer data is stored in a manner that facilitates rapid access by customer ID or name. Applicants respectfully submit that facilitating access to data does not suggest that spent disk capacity or load status is detected and stored. Rather, this section of Boushy discloses how the data is stored (e.g., the database format such as by customer ID) so that the data can be quickly accessed by casino personnel. As such, claims 9 and 10 are allowable for this reason as well.

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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